



# Rockville Reports

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## Diversity and Direction: Rockville's 2016 Year in Review

The past year saw Rockville win accolades for its family-friendliness and inclusiveness while forging new paths for engaging the community and celebrating the city's diversity.

The Mayor and Council set priorities for the future as they began the first four-year term in the city's history and Rockville continued to provide premium city services in public safety, public works, recreation and parks.



In **January**, Rockville received nearly 30 inches of snow during the "Snowzilla" blizzard. City crews worked day and night throughout the Jan. 22-24 storm, and for days after, to clear snow from city streets.

In **February**, the Mayor and Council identified 25 priorities for the city as they began to outline initiatives for the new term. The initiatives included completing the city's master plan and the Rockville Pike plan, establishing economic development incentives and advocating for school construction

funding. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil).



In **March**, the Rockville City Police Department reported crime statistics for 2015, posting a 4.2 percent overall decrease and continuing an 11-year period in which Rockville has seen significant crime reduction.



In **April**, Rockville continued to establish a strong program for outreach to the minority-, female- and disabled-owned business community with a presence at business events, information gathering about MFD vendors and the first technical assistance meetings with MFD businesses.



In **May**, citing the city's diversity, walkability and parks, Livability.com named Rockville to the top spot on its Best Cities for Families list, and the city celebrated with its 28th annual Hometown Holidays Music Fest over Memorial Day weekend.



In **June**, the city teamed up with the Montgomery County Road Runners Club to host the inaugural Suds & Soles 5K ([www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sudsandsoles)), which featured a flat, fast course through Town Center and a postrace party.

In **July**, city staff presented the Planning Commission the

results of citywide forums that served as the initial public outreach phase of the Rockville 2040 update to the city's Comprehensive Master Plan.



Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville2040](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville2040). Also in July, the city debuted a redesigned "Rockville Reports" print edition and launched [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com). The new online city news source features shareable, translatable links to the latest city news and video from Rockville 11.

In **August**, the Mayor and Council capped a decade of partnering with the public to refine the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan, unanimously approving a vision for redevelopment that will create a more attractive environment to live, work in and visit, with parks and better options for transportation. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillespike).

In **September**, test results for lead and copper in *continued on pg. 2...*

### Rockville Facilities to Close for the Holidays

City Hall will be closed Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas Day and Monday, Jan. 2 in observance of New Year's Day.

Recycling and refuse will be collected one day later throughout those weeks. Find more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse).

City Hall will also be closed 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, for an annual recognition event for city employees. Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule:

- Croydon Creek Nature Center will be open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31 and closed Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The center is closed Mondays.
- During the last two weeks of the month, the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office will be open from 2-7 p.m. Tuesdays, Dec. 20 and 27 and Wednesdays, Dec. 21 and 28. The box office will resume regular hours

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## Neighborhoods are 'ROC-N' New Grants for Fostering Community

### City's Matching Grant Program Funds Six Projects

Five neighborhood groups and a local charity will receive support through Rockville's Organizing Communities and Neighborhoods (ROC-N) Matching Grant Program for projects that seek to foster community involvement.

**East Rockville Civic Association** will buy meeting supplies to support the association's desire to increase participation by creating more dynamic and engaging meetings.

**King Farm Neighborhood Villages** will conduct a survey to determine the services needed to support King Farm's senior community and to establish a sustainable network of volunteers

to provide services.

**Legacy at Lincoln Park** will use the grant to

support its annual block party, which serves as a neighborhood meet and greet and an opportunity to find ways to get involved in the community.

**Lincoln Park Forever Committee** will use the grant to support its Lincoln Park Forever Reunion, which celebrates the historic community's tradition and brings neighborhood families together.

**Lincoln Park Civic Association** will develop com-

#### GOOD NEIGHBOR AWARDS

Presentation during Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 5. [www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/goodneighbor)

munity outreach and maintain their newly developed website in order to fos-

ter a deeper sense of connection and belonging among old and new residents.

**Register of Wills Charity Fund** will provide backpacks with new winter supplies to area homeless.

The projects are expected to generate a total of 1,080 volunteer hours. The deadline for applications for the next round of ROC-N grants is 5 p.m. on Friday, April 14.

Neighborhood associations

could receive up to \$1,000 in a matching grant for projects addressing one or more of the following:

- Neighborhood outreach and organizing.
- Social events aimed at fostering a sense of community pride.
- Neighborhood crime prevention.
- Neighborhood preservation.
- The acquisition of technology or supplies that directly support an existing community program.
- Neighborhood planning.

Find more information and applications at [www.rockvillemd.gov/roc-ngrant](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/roc-ngrant) or call 240-314-8340. ❖

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## Martin Luther King Jr. Day Ceremony to Celebrate a 'Modern Day Dream'

Awards Nomination Deadline Approaches

Rockville honors the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 16 with performances and awards recognizing Rockville community members who are carrying on King's legacy.

The 45th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 10 a.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The celebration will include diverse, interactive and multicultural performances, awards and a keynote speech by Gregory E. Bell, supervisor of diversity initiatives for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Bell will deliver a speech incorporating this year's theme of "Modern Day Dream," which reflects on how King's 1963 "I Have a Dream Speech" still resonates.

The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow.

The City of Rockville's Human Rights Commission will present two awards as part of the celebration.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Award honors a Rockville high school student for advancing the goals and dreams of Dr. King. The F. Michael Taff Award honors an individual, business or organization from Rockville for improving the lives of people with disabilities.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, Dec. 7. Find nomination forms that can be submitted online, video of the 2016 celebration and more information at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk). For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108.

## Celebrate Lunar New Year on Jan. 28

Bigger Than Ever, Rockville's Celebration Relocates to Wootton High School

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, exhibits and food, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28 at the city's Lunar New Year celebration.

This year the celebration moves to Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, to accommodate the large number of community members who attend each year. It will again offer a chance to experience Rockville's diversity through multigenerational performances, exhibits featuring traditional arts and crafts, games, demonstrations, and samples of Asian cuisine.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m. Performances are from 10 a.m. to noon. Exhibits are ongoing throughout the celebration.

Organized by Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force, the celebration will mark the beginning of the year 4715, the Year of the Rooster, on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department.

For more information, contact task force liaison Janet Kelly, at 240-314-8316 or [jkelly@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:jkelly@rockvillemd.gov), or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear) for more details and video of the 2016 celebration. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108.

## 2016 Year In Review

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tap water samples once again confirmed that Rockville's drinking water is clean and safe. Also in September, the King Farm Farmstead Task Force began its work and the Mayor and Council received the Senior Needs Assessment Implementation Plan.



In October, Rockville ranked second in the state on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index scorecard for support and inclusiv-

ity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community members. Also in October, city engineers helped turtles cross the street (Search "turtles" at [RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) to learn more) and Rockville Volunteer Fire Department members visited City Hall before a Mayor and Council meeting to thank the city for supporting the department's purchase of a new advanced life support chase car.



In November, the state Department of Transportation announced a \$100,000 grant to the city to bring two new bikeshare stations to Twinbrook. *Read more on page 4.*

In December, the city again helped neighbors in need with the Rockville Holiday Drive. *Read more on page 6.*



Read more about 2016 in Rockville at

[RockvilleReports.com](http://RockvilleReports.com) or [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereports](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillereports). Look for more top stories from 2016 in Rockville 11's December edition of "Rock 11 Now" on county cable channel 11, streaming at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11) and on the city's YouTube channel at [www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube). ❖

## Winter is coming! And snow!

Is your **Alert Rockville** account current?  
Don't have an **Alert Rockville** account?

Get one at [www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts).

Receive public safety, traffic and severe weather notifications from the City of Rockville.

**MUNICIPAL BROADCAST NETWORK**

COMCAST 997 **MBN** In HD RCN 1057

Rockville 11 is Ready for its Close-up  
The Municipal Broadcast Network is now in HD.  
Learn more at [www.connectmontgomery.com](http://www.connectmontgomery.com).  
Watch Rockville 11 online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).

## Peerless Honors Preservation, Restoration and Education

Annual Awards Celebrate Rockville's Heritage

The 37th annual Peerless Rockville awards ceremony, held Nov. 18 at Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, recognized efforts to preserve Rockville's historic and architectural character through projects, activities or programs. This year's winners were:

- **Alvin Aubinoe**, owner, for the preservation and restoration of 107 W. Jefferson St.
- **Jeanne Gartner**, winner of the Wagman Award for Educational Excellence, for her blog on the history of the Reed Brothers Dodge auto dealership ([reedbrothersdodgehistory.wordpress.com](http://reedbrothersdodgehistory.wordpress.com)).
- **Higgins Cemetery Association** ([www.higginscemeterymaryland.org](http://www.higginscemeterymaryland.org)) for the stewardship, restoration and preservation of the Higgins Cemetery, at 5720 Arundel Ave.
- **Bob Hines**, social studies teacher at Richard

Montgomery High School, for education and outreach.

- **New Mark Commons Homes Association** ([newmarkcommons.org](http://newmarkcommons.org)) for the preservation and stewardship of their community.
- **Charles K. Nulsen III**, of Washington Property Company, for adaptive reuse of 4 Research Place.
- **Pepco Watershed Sustainability Center** ([www.pepco.com/community-commitment/watershed-sustainability-center/](http://www.pepco.com/community-commitment/watershed-sustainability-center/)) for new construction, sustainable design, landscape design and education.

Peerless Rockville is an award-winning, community-based nonprofit founded in 1974 to preserve buildings, objects, and information important to Rockville's heritage.

Learn more at [www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org), or call 301-762-0096. ❖

## Rockville Rewards Card Sales on the Rise

Cardholders Get Local Discounts While Helping Nonprofits

The holidays are the perfect time to purchase a Rockville Rewards card and save money while supporting the community.

Cards make great gifts that give back to the community and give cardholders discounts at local businesses during the holidays and throughout the year.

The latest cards went on sale Aug. 1. Through October, sales were up 48 percent compared to August-October 2015.

The Richard Montgomery Athletics booster club (<http://rocket-athletics.org>) leads the program's nonprofit partners in fundraising, raising \$18,000 since Aug. 1 for the high school's athletics programs.

Nonprofits sell Rockville Rewards cards and keep 100 percent of the proceeds to support programs such as scholarships, homeless

shelters and free medical clinics.

The cards cost \$25 and are available at [www.rockvillerewards.com](http://www.rockvillerewards.com) or by purchasing directly from a nonprofit partner. They are good for discounts until Aug. 31, 2017 at over 135 businesses.

Launched in 2009, Rockville Rewards is a program of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce, with grant funding from the City of Rockville. The chamber serves members through networking events, business connections and acting as a liaison between businesses and the city. Learn more at [www.rockvillechamber.org](http://www.rockvillechamber.org). ❖



Connect with us on Social Media.



**ROCKVILLE 11'S MOST WATCHED YOUTUBE VIDEOS FOR 2016:** Turtle Crossing at Watkins Pond; 55th Annual Rockville Classic and Antique Car Show Preview; Hometown Holidays 2016 — All Access; Rockville Congratulates Olympic Hero Helen Maroulis; Rockville Takes a Bite Out of Crime During National Night Out; Community Policing in Rockville; Rockville Musical Theatre Presents: Rent; Storm Drain Mural Painting. Find these and more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube).





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#### Upcoming Meetings: Mondays, Dec. 5 and 12 at 7 p.m.

Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Beryl L. Feinberg on Monday, Dec. 12.

#### Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil).
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorand

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## City Legislative Priorities: Aid for Schools, Roads and Seniors Maryland General Assembly's 90-Day Session Begins Jan. 11

Rockville's 2017 state legislative priorities include calls for more state aid for school construction, youth and senior services and for the permanent restoration of state aid for road maintenance.

Under priorities approved by the Mayor and Council in June, and presented by Councilmember Julie Palakovich Carr to the Montgomery County Delegation on Nov. 16, the city will advocate for:

- **Increased school construction funding** from the state to address overcrowded and aging Montgomery County Public School facilities in Rockville and across the county.
- **Permanent restoration of municipal Highway User Revenue funding.** The state provided one-time restorations



in the aid, used for road maintenance and small infrastructure improvement projects, over the past four fiscal years.

- **Payment of fees** by county, state and state institutions, including school systems and colleges, for stormwater management services provided to government facilities in Rockville.
- **Enhanced senior programs and services.** Rockville's se-

nior population is 11,900 residents, which is 18 percent of the city's population.

- **The preservation of Maryland Youth Service Bureau funding.** Rockville's Community Services Division is a youth service bureau that is partially funded by the state. It provides prevention and intervention services to at-risk youth.

- **A fair and reasonable municipal tax duplication system,** in which counties reimburse municipalities for providing certain services, such as road and bridge maintenance.

The 2017 state legislative session runs from Jan. 11-April 10 in Annapolis. For more details on these state legislative priorities, contact Linda Moran at [lmoran@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:lmoran@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8115. ✦

## Speak Up Online About the Budget

It's nearly three months until the city manager presents the Fiscal Year 2018 budget to the Mayor and Council, but community members have an early opportunity to share their ideas.

City staff has begun gathering input for the development of the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY 2018, which begins July 1. Community members can find budget information and a link to submit ideas for the budget at [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).

A public hearing on Nov. 1 offered an early opportunity to provide budget ideas in person. Find video of the hearing with the Nov. 1 Mayor and Council meeting listing at [www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter).

Rockville's adopted operating budget for the current fiscal year totals \$126.3 million. The Mayor and Council are scheduled to adopt the FY 2018 budget in May.

For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ✦

#### OFFER IDEAS

- At [www.rockvillemd.gov/budget](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/budget).
- At public hearings at the March 6, March 20 and April 3 Mayor and Council meetings.

#### WATCH IT

The Feb. 27 proposed budget presentation by the city manager to the Mayor and Council, and the public hearings will be

- Carried live on channel 11 on county cable.
- Live streaming on [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11).
- Available a day after each meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

## Mayor and Council to Hold Hearing on Rockville's Bikeway Master Plan Hearing is One of Several Ways for the Public to Testify About the Plan Update

A public hearing this month on the city's Bikeway Master Plan offers an opportunity to testify about a document that could shape how people get around Rockville for years to come.

The hearing is scheduled for the Mayor and Council meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 12 at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.

As part of the city's comprehensive master plan (CMP), the plan lays the groundwork for the city's bicycle facility network. Since it was last updated in 2004, the network has expanded to more than 34 miles of shared-use paths, nearly 4 miles of bike lanes and 3 miles of roads with shared-lane markings known as sharrows.

Numerous recommendations from the update have been implemented since 2004, including completion of the Carl Henn

#### SPEAK UP

Testify and submit comments:

- During the public hearing. Priority will be given to speakers who sign up by calling 240-314-8200 by 4 p.m. on Dec. 12.
- Using the form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan).
- By email to: [okotov@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:okotov@rockvillemd.gov).
- By mail to: City of Rockville, c/o Oleg Kotov, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Include name and address. Comments without a valid name and address cannot be included in the public record. The public record is expected to remain open until Monday, Jan. 9.

Millennium Trail, an 11-mile bicycle beltway around Rockville. The draft plan aims to build on that success by providing a starting point for construction projects that expand the existing bicycle network, improve safety and increase connections to all parts of the city for recreation, commuting and shopping.

The Planning Commission considered the draft plan in meetings and public hearings over nearly two years before approving the plan on Sept. 28 with the recommendation that the Mayor and Council adopt it as part of the CMP.

Read the draft plan and submit testimony and comments at [www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bikewaymasterplan). Find video of a presentation about the draft plan with the Nov. 21 Mayor and Council meeting listing at [www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/agendacenter). ✦

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- council@rockvillemd.gov.
- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to [cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov) or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer to be on a board or commission** at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions). (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at [www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer).

#### Boards and Commissions

Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted. Please check [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) for the latest on cancellations, rescheduling and contact information.

- **Dec. 1 Board of Supervisors of Elections** 1 p.m.
- **Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Development Review Committee** 9 a.m.
- **Dec. 1 Environment and Sustainability Commission** 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 3 Board of Appeals** 9 a.m.\*
- **Dec. 6 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 7 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC)** 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 13 Rockville Sister City Corporation Board** 7:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 14 Sign Review Board** 9 a.m.
- **Dec. 14 Planning Comm.** 7 p.m.\*
- **Dec. 14 Cultural Arts Comm.** 7 p.m.
- **Dec. 15 Historic District Commission** 7:30 p.m.\*
- **Dec. 15 Senior Citizens Commission** 1 p.m. Rockville Senior Center
- **Dec. 27 Traffic and Transportation Commission** 7:30 p.m.

\*Televised on Rockville 11.

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to the Mayor and Council at 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280 or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions).

#### Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Animal Matters Board (1)
- Board of Appeals (1 alternate)
- Compensation Comm. (2)
- Cultural Arts Commission (1)
- Environment Commission (2)
- Ethics Commission (1)
- Financial Advisory Board (2)
- Historic District Comm. (1 alt.)
- Human Rights Commission (3)
- Human Services Advisory Comm. (1)
- Landlord Tenant Affairs Comm. (1 rep.; 1 alt.)
- Planning Commission (3)
- Senior Citizens Comm. (2)
- Sign Review Board (1 alt.)
- Traffic and Transportation Comm. (2)

For more, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions) or call 240-314-8280.



**STAY INFORMED:** The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at [www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil). Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at [www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme) to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.



## Mayor and Council Express Preference for BRT alternative

Of three final alternatives under consideration by the state for a high-capacity, express bus service along Veirs Mill Road (MD 586), Rockville's Mayor and Council supported one that would create dedicated lanes along the roadway, where possible.

The Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration have been studying three options for bus rapid transit (BRT) alternatives in recent months, and requested input from the Mayor and Council on which alternative they preferred.

BRT is a transportation alternative with similarities to light rail. Buses make fewer stops along a designated lane and have priority at intersections with signals. The area the study covers is from the Rockville Metro station to the Wheaton Metro station, and has 12 stops, including service to the Rockville campus of Montgomery College.

Alternative 3, the one selected by the Mayor and Council, would create dedicated lanes for BRT buses on the outer-curb lanes of the roadway. The state has proposed extending the outer dedicated lane from Twinbrook Parkway to just beyond Broadwood Drive on the westbound side (traveling toward the Rockville Metro station), and beginning the dedicated lane just past Ardennes Avenue on the eastbound side (traveling toward Wheaton).

These lanes would also be used by local buses and right-turning vehicles. Where dedicated lanes aren't possible, BRT vehicles would operate in mixed traffic, but with queue jumps at intersections. About 72 percent of the corridor would have dedicated lanes, with queue jumps at Edmonston Drive and First Street.

The selected alternative would have a minimal impact on properties along the route, cost less than the other options and potentially increase the amount of new transit commuters by 2,700 a day, while saving them travel time. The new high-capacity transit line also has the potential to spark reinvestment along the route.

The Montgomery County Transportation and Environment Committee will hear a presentation on BRT at its Dec. 19 meeting.



## Rockville Awarded Grant to Bring Bikeshare Stations to Twinbrook

*State Grant Will Help Bring the Number of Stations in the City to 15*

Two new bikeshare stations are coming to Twinbrook after the state Department of Transportation announced a \$100,000 grant award to the City of Rockville.

The grant, and a partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and The JBG Companies, a significant developer in Twinbrook, will allow the city to meet community demand and expand its participation in the Capital Bikeshare program, which offers bicycle rentals at stations across the Washington metropolitan area.

The new stations will include 15 bicycle docks each and are planned for the west side of the Twinbrook Metro station, near the Kiss & Ride lot, and at the intersection of Congressional Lane and East Jefferson Street.

The stations are expected to open in summer 2018. They will be the 14th

and 15th stations within the city limits of Rockville, which launched its participation in Capital Bikeshare in October 2013.

Bikeshare has proven popular in Rockville. In the 12 months from October 2015 through September 2016, stations in the city registered 6,598 trips, up 571 trips from the same period a year earlier and up 1,060 trips from the same period two years ago.

Riders may purchase short-term memberships for a single trip, 24 hours or three days; or longer-term memberships of 30 days or a year to make bike sharing a regular way of traveling. Memberships can be used not only in the Rockville network, but at any Capital Bikeshare station in the Washington metropolitan area.

Learn more about how bikeshare works at [www.rockvillemd.gov/bikeshare](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bikeshare) and about bicycling in Rockville at [www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/bicycling). ❖

## Planning Commission to Hear About Housing Needs

Regional housing expert Lisa Sturtevant will brief the Rockville Planning Commission at its Dec. 14 meeting on current and future housing needs in Rockville.

Sturtevant is completing an in-depth assessment of housing market conditions in Rockville, with a special focus on the challenges for residents with lower incomes.

The study, once complete, will guide the city on programs or tools to help address housing challenges. It will outline a framework to understand and address long-term housing challenges as Rockville develops an updated housing element of its Comprehensive Master Plan.

The city received substan-

tial input on housing from attendees of its Rockville 2040 outreach. At Rockville 2040 citywide meetings held last spring, attendees developed a series of draft policies. City staff will take these ideas, together with results from the housing study, and develop a draft housing element for public review.

The Planning Commission meeting begins at 7 p.m. at City Hall and will be live streaming at [www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11). Video of the meeting will also be available on demand one day after the meeting at [www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/videoondemand).

For more information, visit Rockville's 2040 webpage at [www.rockvillemd.gov/2040](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/2040). ❖

## Coping for Cops

*RCPD Program Addresses Officers' Mental Health*

A Rockville City Police Department (RCPD) program aimed at mental health and wellness is earning national attention for the department's commitment to taking care of the men and women who serve and protect the Rockville community.

The program includes an eight-hour, state-approved class that is mandatory for sworn officers and optional for civilian RCPD staff. The class covers identifying mental health issues, using coping skills and intervention techniques, and the importance of family support and overall wellness, including good nutrition and physical fitness. Officers receive quick-reference cards that list in-the-moment coping techniques and resources that are available 24/7, year-round.

"Employees are our most valuable asset, and we must ensure not only their physical wellness, but their mental wellness also," said acting Chief Bob Rappoport.

Each year, more officers die by suicide than are killed in the line of duty, according to the Community Oriented Policing Services of the U.S. Department of Justice.

With that in mind, the RCPD worked with the city's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to connect officers with

mental health care providers, known as public safety specialists, who have experience working with first responders and their unique, repeated exposure to critical and traumatic events. EAP also provides annual mental health wellness check-ins, in which officers can visit a therapist, at no cost, to review any traumatic events from the past year and to discuss coping skills.

"With this program, our city police department is extremely progressive and light years ahead of other agencies, not only in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region, but the country," said Cpl. J. Pfahler, who led training sessions about the RCPD program at last month's National Conference on Officer Wellness and Trauma, in Grapevine, Texas.

Other initiatives included publishing a booklet with information to help officers' families better understand and cope with mental health issues, and increasing city police membership on the county police department's Peer Support Team by 150 percent.

The department is planning training designed specifically for officers' families and a social gathering for families to get to know each other better and form ad hoc support groups. ❖

## Four City Sidewalk Projects Finished

The city recently completed four sidewalk projects in the ongoing effort to support safety for pedestrians in Rockville.

- Falls Road, along the west side of Falls Road (MD 189) between Wootton Parkway and West Kersey Lane.
- Monroe Street Phase II, on the west side of Monroe Street between Cabin John Parkway and the asphalt path from New Mark Esplanade. The project included minor roadway narrowing in select locations, curb and gutter replacement, and minor drainage modifications.

- Laird Street between West Montgomery and Anderson avenues. The project cost about \$20,000 and was paid for by the previous developer of Chestnut Lodge.
- Fleet Street and Ritchie Parkway is an approximately 500-foot sidewalk section that fills the gap between Copperstone Court and the Millenium Trail on Wootton Parkway.

Find the city's sidewalk prioritization policy, a map of sidewalks prioritized for construction and forms for petitioning for sidewalk construction at [www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/sidewalks). ❖



**Support Rockville Police As They Take the Plunge for Special Olympics at the**

**21st Annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge**

**Friday, Jan. 27  
Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis**

**RCPD officers participate in a police plunge in the chilly Chesapeake to support Special Olympics Maryland during the weekend-long 2017 plunge, Jan. 26-28.**

**Learn more and contribute to the RCPD plunge team at [bit.ly/RCPDPlunge](http://bit.ly/RCPDPlunge).**



**LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT SUMMER AND CAMPS:** *It's never too early to start thinking about what to do with your kids over a summer break that now extends past Labor Day. Whether you live in Rockville or commute here to work, we'll have you covered. Our Summer Camps Guide 2017 is in the works – look for it in January. For an early preview, see our Rec and Parks Dept. booth at the 2017 Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Jan. 29 at the Hilton Hotel Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.*



# Water Storage Tanks Scheduled for Rehab in 2017

## Tanks are Near Lakewood Country Club and Beall Elementary

A contractor will re-habilitate Rockville's two water storage tanks in 2017, with work on the Hunting Hill tank adjacent to Lakewood Country Club expected to begin in January, followed in June by work on the tank near Beall Elementary School.

Work on the Hunting Hill tank, at 13890 Glen Mill Road, is expected to be completed by early summer 2017. Work on the second tank, which is located on Lockett Street, across from Beall Elementary School, is scheduled to begin in June 2017 and take three to six months to complete.

Two community meetings will be held, one to discuss each tank rehab. The meeting for the Hunting Hill tank will be scheduled at least two weeks before the project begins. Check the city calendar at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov) for a meeting date and details.

The 50-year-old tanks store drinking water around the clock and year-round for distribution to Rockville homes and businesses, making it essential to keep them in excellent condition. Following an inspection, Department of Public Works staff worked with an engineering consultant to design recommended repairs and

prepare a construction budget. The projects will significantly extend the life of the tank, maintaining the safety and reliability of the city's water system and resulting in long-term cost savings for city taxpayers.

The improvements include safety upgrades, repairs and/or replacement of the steel roof supports, and interior and exterior work to remove existing paint, check for lead and repaint. While both tanks were reconditioned in 1996-1997, and lead paint is not expected to be present, the Environmental Protection Agency requires lead testing and corresponding lead safety precautions. The contractor is required to meet federal and state regulatory requirements during the work and will erect a containment system that covers each tank and protects surrounding property from dust and debris generated when the exterior coating is removed and reapplied.

Neighbors may hear noise from the process to remove the existing paint. The contractor is required to comply with the county's noise ordinance. Work hours will be 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact project manager Ilene Lish at [ilish@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:ilish@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8516. ❄️

# Winterize and Prevent Frozen Pipes

Freezing temperatures can lead to frozen pipes or meters, leaving homes without running water. To prevent frozen pipes:

- When freezing weather is forecast, turn off inside valves that control the water supply to outside hose attachments (known as bibs). Open the outside hose bibs to allow any water in the line to drain out. Keep the valve open. Remove and drain garden hoses and drain in-ground irrigation systems.
- Eliminate sources of cold air near pipes. Close off crawl spaces, seal drafty windows and doors, and insulate walls and attics.
- Use insulation, pipe sleeves or newspaper to wrap pipes that are exposed to cold air.
- During extended absences, set the thermostat to at least 55 degrees, or shut off the main water valve.
- In severe cold, keep water moving through pipes.

Turn on the faucet farthest from your main valve to a very small, steady trickle.

If pipes freeze:

- Shut off the water immediately at the main shut-off valve.
- Warm air around the pipes using a hair dryer. Do not use a kerosene heater, blow torch or open flame.
- Once pipes are thawed, slowly turn water back on. Check all joints for leaks and other areas for cracks that may have resulted from the freeze.

Property owners are responsible for calling a plumber to repair frozen and broken pipes on their property and inside their buildings. If you suspect your meter might be frozen and you pay water bills to the City of Rockville, call 240-314-8567 to schedule a service call. If the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission provides water for your property, call 301-206-4002. ❄️

### MORE TIPS

- Find tips for safely shutting off water and other utilities in your home at [www.ready.gov/utility-shut-safety](http://www.ready.gov/utility-shut-safety).
- The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service provides tips for preventing frozen fire sprinkler pipes at <http://ht.ly/H4KSE>.
- Freezing water can cause rain barrels to crack or deform. When freezing temperatures are forecast, store barrels in a garage or shed, or disconnect the barrel and divert water to the ground using a downspout.
- Learn more at [www.protectyourpipes.org/frozen-pipes/](http://www.protectyourpipes.org/frozen-pipes/) and [www.rockvillemd.gov/water](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/water).

## RCPD Seeks Cell Phone Donations

The Rockville City Police Department accepts donations of used cell phones, with chargers, to help connect community members to emergency assistance.

The RCPD Victim Assistance Program will provide donated cell phones, with the capability to call 911 only, to domestic violence victims or seniors who may find themselves in need of emergency assistance.

Cell phone donations are tax deductible. A letter of contribution will be provided upon request to donors who provide their name, address and telephone number.

Donations may be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to: Diane Charles, Victim Advocate, Rockville City Police Department, 2 W. Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

For more information, contact [dcharles@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:dcharles@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8917.

## RCPD Program Supports Crime Victims

The Rockville City Police Department recognizes that crime victims need and expect police follow-up to bring their experience to closure. With that in mind, RCPD's Victim Assistance Program works with city police officers to supplement and enhance their efforts to follow up with crime victims.

The victim advocate makes direct contact with crime victims, to provide information on their specific cases, such as what will happen after a police report is written and when a case goes to court. The program also provides information on resources such as counseling, court accompaniment, financial compensation and crime prevention.

The program is free and available to city residents or victims of crimes committed in Rockville, and to their families.

For support, information and referrals to resources, contact RCPD's victim advocate at [dcharles@rockvillemd.gov](mailto:dcharles@rockvillemd.gov) or 240-314-8917. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/victim](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/victim).

## 'Leaf' It to Rockville

Rockville continues two rounds of vacuuming leaves from neighborhood curbs in November and December.

Rake leaves next to the curb or immediately adjacent to, but out of, the roadway if no curb exists. Leaves should be raked no earlier than one week prior to the collection date to avoid grass damage or fire hazards.

An interactive map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/leafcollection) allows residents to input their address to learn when their leaves will be collected.

**DO:** Place leaves at the curb by 6 a.m. on the collection dates. Remove sticks and all other objects from leaf piles.

**DO NOT:** Pile leaves in bike lanes or where vehicles are parked. Vehicle exhaust can ignite dry leaves.

**DO:** Avoid street parking near leaf piles or close to other vehicles during your collection week so that leaf collection trucks can access leaf piles.

**DO NOT:** Dump leaves, grass clippings or other yard waste into storm drains, along stream banks or directly into streams. Although yard waste is biodegradable, leaves can clog storm drains or cause blockages that contribute to localized flooding. Decomposing leaves can also release nutrients, stimulating algae blooms that kill fish.

**DO:** Use biodegradable paper lawn bags or 32-gallon trash cans to set leaves out with yard waste on your collection day, after fall leaf collection ends.

**DO NOT:** Collect leaves in plastic garbage bags.

**DO:** Save collection and disposal costs by using alternatives methods for disposing of leaves, such as mulching or composting.

# Sewer Backups and What the City Can Do for You

When it comes to property owner nightmares, few things are more stressful, inconvenient or damaging than a sewer backup.

While the city prohibits the discharge of any substance likely to cause a sewer obstruction, and actively tries to educate the public about the problems they cause, we can't absolutely guarantee or prevent backups.

But just in case it happens to you, we have some useful advice.

Before you contact a plumber, call the 24-Hour Public Works Emergency Hotline at 240-314-8567 and let them know you're

reporting a sewer emergency — backed-up sewer lines, line breaks, sewage odors and overflowing manholes fall into that category.

Once notified of a sewer emergency, the city investigates to determine whether or not the backup is in the portion of the lateral or mainline the city maintains. If the problem isn't in the mainline, or in the city-maintained portion of the lateral line, the property owner will be advised to contact a registered master plumber to locate the stoppage, remove it, and clean out the lateral line.

The City of Rockville

makes every effort to be responsive to customers' needs and concerns when a sewer backup takes place, and has a crew whose sole duty is to inspect, clean and maintain sewers on a daily basis. Unfortunately, because a sewer isn't a closed system, what's put into the sewer can cause clogs.

It's very rare for the city to be liable for damages from sewer backups due to rigorous preventive maintenance that includes high-velocity flushing, video inspection, root sawing, sonar system testing, grease inhibitors, root growth inhibitors, and lining or replacing piping;

among others. Because of this, the state specifically requires that all homeowner insurers that sell policies in Maryland offer coverage for water and sewer backup losses, in writing, at the time of application and renewal.

Your homeowners insurance likely excludes coverage for losses as a result of sewer-related backups unless you specifically purchase an endorsement to your policy.

For more comprehensive information on sewer backups, including recommendations for prevention and clean up, see [www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/432](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/432). ❄️



**ALERT ROCKVILLE IS AN IMPORTANT WAY TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH US DURING EMERGENCIES:** Sign up for warnings about imminent threats to health and safety as well as important notifications that impact your geographic location. Alert Rockville notifications can be delivered via email; text message; home, business and mobile phone; and more. Sign up at [alert.rockvillemd.gov](http://alert.rockvillemd.gov).





### Help Neighbors in Need with the Rockville Holiday Drive

The City of Rockville's Holiday Drive continues in December. Drop donations of new, unwrapped toys or books and \$20 Giant or Target gift cards through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15 at collection boxes at the following locations:

- City Hall, third floor lobby (Vinson Street entrance).
- Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park, 603 Edmonston Drive.
- Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.
- Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive.
- Rockville Swim and Fitness Center, 355 Martins Lane.
- Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive.
- Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.
- Dawson's Market, 225 N. Washington St. (in Rockville Town Square).
- Food Lion, 845 Rockville Pike (in Wintergreen Plaza).
- Giant Food, 625 Hungerford Drive.
- Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel & Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.

Tax-deductible contributions may also be sent to the Community Services Division, 111 Maryland Ave., 1st Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. Checks should be made payable to "Rockville Holiday Drive Fund."

Last year, the drive provided 1,000 new toys to nearly 500 children and gift cards to 205 teens.

The continued success of the drive depends on a collaborative partnership with local churches, schools, civic organizations, service clubs, businesses, nonprofits and individuals working together to make the holidays special for the less fortunate.

Learn more about the drive, find lists of requested food and toys and watch Rockville 11's documentary, "A Community That Cares: The Rockville Holiday Drive," at [www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive).

For more information, call 240-314-8310.

### Avoid a Clog, Fight the FOG (Fats, Oils and Greases)

When the holiday feast is finished, don't pour fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain.

FOG poured down sinks solidifies when deposited into sewer lines, trapping solids and forming hard deposits that can cause blockages in pipes. Blockages can lead to sewer backups and leaking pipes, which can mean costly damage to city infrastructure and private property.

Follow these tips to help prevent clogs and blockages:

- Avoid placing food that contains FOG in the garbage disposal.
- Scrape food and grease into the garbage before washing dishes.
- Use a paper towel or napkin to absorb cooking oil or grease before washing dishes.
- Pour FOG into an empty can, let it cool to solidify and dispose of it as refuse.

For more information, call the Environmental Management Division at 240-314-8870.

## Begin a Holiday Tradition at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

December offers lots of opportunities to adopt a new annual tradition for the holidays with a visit to Rockville's F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

**Rockville Civic Ballet presents "The Nutcracker"**  
Saturdays, Dec. 3 and 10, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 4 and 11 at 2 p.m.

Under the direction of Eleanor Simpson, the Rockville Civic Ballet presents the holiday classic that has become a Rockville tradition. Join Clara on her magical journey.

*Tickets: \$17; \$13, seniors (62-plus) and students.*

**Hope Garden Children's Ballet presents "A Christmas Carol"**  
Saturday, Dec. 17 at 1:30 and 6 p.m.

This classic Charles Dickens tale, set in 19th century London, is crafted by artistic director and choreographer Fran Ichijo with exquisite dancing, costumes and set.

*Tickets: \$22; \$19 youth/senior/military.*

**Rockville Concert Band presents "Winter Is Icumen In"**

Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 p.m.

Music ancient and modern depicting snow, ice, sleigh rides and fantasies, conducted by Music Director John Saint Amour.

*No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation.*

**Rockville Chorus Holiday Concert presents "Let it Snow!"**

Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Sit back, relax and enjoy mostly snow-themed songs of the season from a 90-voice-strong chorus. Refreshments follow the show.

*No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation.*

Buy tickets online at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre) or by phone at 240-314-8690 or in person at the box office.

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, Glenview Mansion and Croydon Creek Nature Center are all part of the Rockville Civic Center. For December events at the mansion, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview); for Croydon Creek, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek). ❄️



## Enjoy Free Holiday Open Houses at Rockville's Glenview Mansion

*Decorations, Live Music and a Visit from Santa*

Glenview Mansion will celebrate the season with music, gifts, art, and a chance to give back at its annual Holiday Open Houses.

The free open houses are held 1-4 p.m. on three Sundays in December:

**Dec. 4:** Art gallery opening and reception, hosting the Rockville Art League Annual Juried Members Show. In partnership with the City of Rockville, the Rockville Art League (RAL) exhibits artwork twice a year at Glenview Mansion. Meet six local artists, find that unique one-of-a-kind gift in the holiday gift shop and explore surprising and delightful art in every room on the second floor of the mansion. The exhibition runs until Dec. 30.

- 1-4 p.m. Art gallery exhibit opening and reception
- 1:15 p.m. Rockville Singers
- 2:15 p.m. Victorian Lyric Opera Company
- 3:15 p.m. Capital Accord Chorus

**Dec. 11:** Children's Day with Santa and Mrs. Claus: Bring the kids to meet the Clauses and take part in fun crafts and activities.

- 1:15 p.m. The Heavenly Handbells of Trinity Lutheran Church

- 2:15 p.m. Heart of Maryland Chorus
- 3:15 p.m. Watkins Mill High School Chamber Singers

**Dec. 18:** Enjoy music and merriment.

- 1:15 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School Madrigals
- 2:15 p.m. The Encore Singers
- 3:15 p.m. Harmony Express

Glenview Mansion also serves as one of the city's collection sites for donations to the Rockville Holiday Drive, which collects toys and gift cards for children in need. Here's how you can help: Donate canned food or new toys; \$20 gift certificates for stores such as Giant, Target, Best Buy, Old Navy; or make a tax-deductible contribution (checks may be made payable to the Rockville Holiday Drive Fund): 111 Maryland Ave., 1st floor, Rockville, MD 20850).

For info, please call the Community Services Division at 240-314-8310 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive).

Learn more about the mansion at [www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview) or call 240-314-8660. ❄️

## Tree Recycling Makes the Holidays Greener

The city collects holiday trees as part of its recycling collection and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, where they become mulch. The mulch is available year-round for free, at the center, at 16105 Frederick Road, next to the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station. Place trees at the curb for pickup on regular recycling days after

removing all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel. Trees should not be bagged. Artificial trees cannot be recycled and should be placed in the gray refuse cart for regular weekly collection. Artificial trees that are too large to fit in the cart can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year, or taken to the transfer station. ❄️

## Thinking of A Tree for The Holidays?

With the holiday season fast approaching, many Rockville residents will be buying real trees to decorate their homes. What those residents might not know is that holiday tree fires can be deadly. If you're a "real tree" person, here are a few tips from Common Voices (fireadvocates.org) to keep you and your loved ones safe.

- If you get a live tree, make sure it's fresh. Needles

should be green and springy to the touch.

- Cut 1 to 2 inches off the bottom of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. A fresh cut allows the tree to absorb water. Place the tree in water right away.
- Fill the tree stand with water every day.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like floor

vents, fireplaces, radiators, candles or lamps.

- Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit.
- Always turn the tree lights off or unplug them before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Use lights that are approved by a national testing organization like UL.
- Replace lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

- Follow manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands you can safely connect. Make sure you are using the right lights for indoors or outdoors.

- Remove your tree immediately after the holidays even if you think it is not dry.

For more information about keeping your home safe from fire, visit [www.fireadvocates.org](http://www.fireadvocates.org). ❄️



**WINTER BREAK FOR SCHOOLS IS WHEN?** Montgomery County Public Schools is out Dec. 26 (schools and offices are closed), and for winter break, Dec. 27 through Jan. 2. In January, schools will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on the 16th and also on the 20th for Inauguration Day.



## FACILITIES LEGEND:

- CC** Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.  
**GM** Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.  
**FSF** F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.  
**LP** Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.  
**CH** Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.  
**SR** Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.  
**SFC** Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.  
**TF** Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.  
**TC** Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



Rockville offers a variety of classes and programs each season. Find the current recreation guide at [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide) and sign up through Rock Enroll ([rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov)).

## For Board and Commission Meetings, see page 3.

- 2 Snowflake Family Dance** All ages welcome. Dance and have a great time with friends and family. Winter crafts and DJ. Refreshments sold by Meadow Hall Elementary School. \$3 per person at the door. 7-9 p.m. **TC**
- 3,4,10,11 "The Nutcracker"** The Rockville Civic Ballet will present the holiday classic directed by Eleanor Simpson. Join Clara on her magical journey. 2-4 p.m., Dec. 3, 4, 10 and 11; 7:30-9:30 p.m., Dec. 3 and 10. Adults, \$17; children (aged 12 and younger) and seniors (60 and older) \$13. **FSF**
- 3 Rockville Senior Center Holiday Bazaar** Sponsored by Rockville Seniors, Inc. Enjoy

# December Calendar

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

handmade crafts, raffle, book sale, bake sale, plant sale and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **SR**

- 4 Holiday Open House, Art Gallery Opening and Reception** Rockville Art League's annual juried members' show, featuring a variety of media, will be exhibited on the second floor of the Glenview Mansion. Fine crafts and the new Civic Center coloring book will be on sale on the first floor. Shop our holiday gift shop and meet six local artists to find a unique, one-of-a-kind gift. 1-4 p.m., art gallery exhibit opening and reception. Holiday music by local performers will be in the mansion conservatory. FREE. **GM**
- 1:15 p.m. Rockville Singers
  - 2:15 p.m. Victorian Lyric Opera Company
  - 3:15 p.m. Capital Accord Chorus.

- 4 Natural Holiday Crafts** Spend the afternoon using a variety of natural or recycled objects to make holiday crafts and ornaments. Each participant will complete at least three projects. Adult participation required for children under 8. Register by Nov. 28. 1:30-3 p.m. Register for course #56409. Residents, \$10; nonresidents, \$13 **CC**

- 8 Wine and Improv Series A** night of fun and games. Dive into the world of improv led by a theater professional. No experience

needed. Enjoy a glass or two of wine and an evening of laughs, with new games and excitement each month. Includes one drink ticket. Additional wine and beer for sale. Must be aged 21-plus to attend. ID required. Tickets, \$35 per person, \$60 a couple. 7-9:30 p.m. **GM**

- 10 Gingerbread House Workshop for the Holidays** Build your own gingerbread houses for the holidays. Learn the tricks of the trade and get creative. Fee includes a gingerbread house and decorating supplies. Working conditions include plenty of cookies and drinks. Register for course #56344. Residents, \$45; nonresidents, \$50. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **TF**

- 10 Little Acorns: Ready for Winter** Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time is spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Advanced registration recommended as spaces are limited. Register for course #56751 (10-11 a.m.) and #58102 (11 a.m.-noon). Residents, \$7; nonresidents, \$8. Ages 18 to 36 months. **CC**

- 11 Holiday Open House with Santa and Mrs. Claus** Enjoy a day with the Clauses. Take part in fun crafts and activities. 1-4 p.m., Glenview Mansion and

art gallery open. FREE. **GM**

- 1:15 p.m. The Heavenly Handbells of Trinity Lutheran Church
- 2:15 p.m. Heart of Maryland Chorus
- 3:15 p.m. Watkins Mill High School Chamber Singers

- 17 Cookies with Santa** Visit Santa's workshop for an afternoon of holiday activities. Meet Santa, listen to holiday stories, bring a camera for a photo. Includes holiday crafts, cookie decorating, writing letters to the North Pole. \$4 per person at the door. Children younger than 1 are free. 2-4 p.m. **TF**

- 18 Holiday Open House Music and Merriment** Glenview Mansion and art gallery open 1-4 p.m. FREE. **GM**
- 1:15 p.m. Richard Montgomery High School Madrigals
  - 2:15 p.m. The Encore Singers
  - 3:15 p.m. Harmony Express.

- 18 "Winter Is Icumen In."** The Rockville Concert Band performs ancient and modern music depicting snow, ice, sleigh rides and fantasies, conducted by Music Director John Saint Amour. 3-4 p.m. FREE. Suggested donation, \$5 **FSF**

- 18 "Let it Snow!"** Holiday concert by the Rockville Chorus. Be transported to a dimension of joy and relaxation. Take a

break from your shopping to enjoy holiday songs from the world over. Join the chorus after the concert for refreshments in the theater lobby. FREE. Suggested donation, \$5. 7:30-9 p.m. **FSF**

- 26 Winter Lifeguard Training Class** The American Red Cross Lifeguard Training course will certify students in Lifeguard Training, CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer, and First Aid. 5-9 p.m. **SFC**

- 27-30 Winter Blast** Children aged 5-12 years old can escape the cold by joining the fun indoors. Activities include sports, crafts and organized games each day. Wear comfort-

able clothing and athletic shoes. Bring a bag lunch. Leave electrical devices at home. Register for course #56376. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Residents, \$120; nonresidents, \$140. **TF**

- 27-30 Winter Wonderland Fun Day** Escape the cold this winter — join the fun indoors! Activities include sports, crafts and organized games each day. Wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. Bring a bagged lunch. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Register for course #56373 (Tuesday), #56374 (Wednesday), #56375 (Thursday), #56777 (Friday). Residents, \$30; nonresidents, \$35 (per day). Sign up for one day or more. **TF**



18th ANNUAL  
**Wedding Expo**  
  
**Glenview Mansion**  
 SUNDAY, JAN. 29, 2017 • NOON-4 p.m.  
 Enjoy more than 30 vendor exhibits and samples, including:  
 • catering • wedding cakes • photography • musical entertainment • floral arrangement • tenting services • event planning and more! \$5 admission at the door.  
 Glenview Mansion at Rockville Civic Center Park  
 603 Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20851  
 Recorded direction line: 240-314-5004  
  
[www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview) • 240-314-8660

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT [WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV](http://WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV)

## Green Giving and Electronics Recycling

Do you plan on giving new electronics as a gift for the holidays? For products that help reduce environmental impacts and energy costs, look for Energy Star-qualified and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT)-registered products. Rockville collects and recycles electronics, such as cell phones, computers, televisions and holiday lights. For more information on recycling and refuse service, holiday tree collection, or to make a bulk collection or electronics recycling collection appointment, call 240-314-8568.



For more environmental tips throughout the year, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/environment](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/environment). ❄️



**SCOUTS VISIT CITY HALL:** Troop 2419, fourth-grade Girl Scouts from College Gardens Elementary School, and Cub Scout Pack 1758, based at Lakewood Elementary School, visited Rockville City Hall in late October. The scouts learned about Rockville's government. They also met with Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton and had the chance to ask her questions about her role and her interest in politics.





Winter Guide Outlines Dozens of Activities for 2016-2017

Rockville's Winter Guide is now available online, packed with activities, events, classes, sports and programs for the rest of the year and heading into 2017.

The guide, produced by the city's Recreation and Parks department, covers activities for tots and preschoolers, children, teens, adults and seniors at Rockville facilities, and also has sections for aquatics and cultural arts.

Registering for a class or program is simple: In person at City Hall; at any Rockville recreation facility; by mail or fax; or by visiting Rock Enroll at [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov), where you can search by program or enter a course number.

To see the guide online, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/guide](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/guide).

Learn to Lifeguard

If you want to be a lifeguard or need to renew your lifeguard certification, head to the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center this December. The center is once again holding American Red Cross Lifeguard Training and recertification courses.

Students must be 15 years old by the last day of the course and pass a prescreen test — a 300-yard continuous swim, with rhythmic breathing, using front crawl or breast stroke; a 10-pound brick retrieval within one minute, 14 seconds; and treading water for two minutes.

To register for the lifeguard training course, which runs Dec. 26-30, visit [rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov](http://rockenroll.rockvillemd.gov) and enter course #56568. For Dec. 17 and 18's recertification, enter #56569.

For full details, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6592](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6592).

Get In On the Plots

Check your thumb. Is it green? Perhaps you have a knack for gardening, but not the space, and are ready to move onto something a little more challenging than your window box.

The City of Rockville has 159 garden plots, measuring 20-by-20 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park (on Hurley Avenue) where you can test your gardening chops. The cost is \$55 for Rockville residents, \$80 for non-residents. The garden plot program opens Feb. 1 and the season runs from April 1-Nov. 12.

The city provides six water spigots throughout the garden area; gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.

Registration forms will be posted at [www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots) in January. Call Rockville Civic Center's main office number, 240-314-8660, for more information.

Holiday Closings in Rockville

continued from pg. 1...

- Tuesday, Jan. 3. Tickets are always available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre).
- Lincoln Park and Thomas Farm community centers and Twinbrook Community Recreation Center will be open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31 and Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, and closed Sundays, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.
- The Rockville Senior Center, including the fitness room, will close at 2 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31, and is closed Sundays.
- The Rockville Swim and Fitness Center will be open 6 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 24 and 31, closed Sundays Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, and open Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter) for lap and program schedules.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).



Be In-the-Know When It Snows Quick Links, Facts and Phone Numbers

When winter weather strikes, turn to the city's website at [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov).

Closure and snow emergency information is available at [www.rockvillemd.gov/weather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/weather), as well as through Facebook and Twitter, and by signing up for Alert Rockville notifications. Learn more at [www.rockvillemd.gov/connections](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/connections).

City crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:

1. Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.
2. Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs.

To check whether an address is within the city limits, find the Address and Residency map at [www.rockvillemd.gov/maps](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/maps).

Removing snow from sidewalks, driveways and entrances is the responsibility of the property and/or business owner or occupant unless a community association has assumed the responsibility.

**Snow and ice must be cleared from all paved sidewalks abutting a property as follows:**

- Up to 3 inches: Clear within 24 hours.
- 3 to 9 inches: Clear within 48 hours.
- 10 inches or more: Clear within 72 hours.

If residents are able to do so, they should clear snow from around fire hydrants.

Seniors may request assistance with clearing snow from their property. Assistance is provided by volunteers and coordinated through the Rockville Senior Center. To volunteer or to request snow-shoveling assistance, call 240-314-8819 or the Senior Center Support Services office at 240-314-8810 or visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorsnowremoval](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/seniorsnowremoval).

For answers to frequently asked questions about snow removal, visit [www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather).

Numbers to Know When It Snows

Emergency .....	911
Rockville City Police Dept. (non-emergency) .....	240-314-8900
Report a Downed Tree to the City .....	240-314-8700
City of Rockville Dept. of Public Works .....	240-314-8500
Rockville City Hall .....	240-314-5000
Rockville Recreation Programs Cancellation Line ..	240-314-5023
Find Snow Removal Help for Seniors or Volunteer to Help .....	240-314-8810
Montgomery Co. 24-Hour Crisis Center Hotline ..	240-777-4000
(Anyone in Montgomery County who needs assistance to stay warm can visit the county Crisis Center at 1301 Piccard Drive.)	
Report a Power Outage to Pepco .....	1-877-737-2662

Problematic Streetlight? Here's How to Report it

Have you ever looked up at a flickering street light, or one with a dead bulb, and wondered who you should tell?

The good news is, it's pretty easy to report streetlight outages online, as long as you know who to report to — Pepco or the city. Knowing where to go is as easy as knowing the difference between a wood and a metal pole.

Lights on wooden utility poles are fed by overhead power and in most cases are owned and maintained by Pepco. (About 25 wooden-pole mounted lights on Route 28 are the responsibility of the city.)

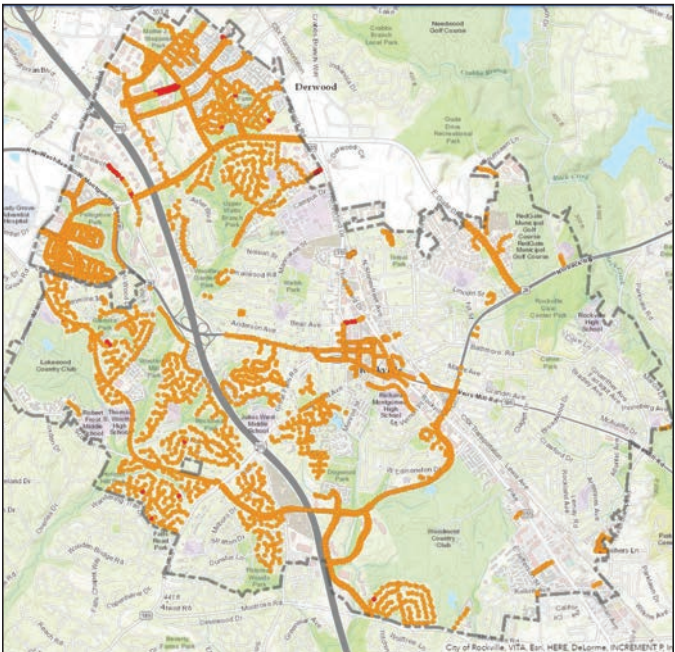
Lights in most cases on metal poles are fed by underground power and are owned and maintained by the city. (Some metal poles on private streets are maintained by home owners associations.)

In both cases, the wiring serving the majority of lights


is maintained by Pepco, and for power outages affecting those streetlights, Pepco makes the repair.

Outages or problems with lights on wooden, Pepco-owned poles can be reported at [www.pepco.com/pages/connectwithus/outages/StreetLightOutage.aspx](http://www.pepco.com/pages/connectwithus/outages/StreetLightOutage.aspx). Two useful pieces of information to note are the closest street address and the number posted on the pole. Once the report is filed, Pepco emails a case number and estimated repair time, then follows up with an email notification once repairs are made.

For problems with lights on city-owned metal poles, file a report at [www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/Report-a-Concern-14/Streetlights-160](http://www.rockvillemd.gov/FormCenter/Report-a-Concern-14/Streetlights-160). A map linked to the report form helps users to identify the light's location. Providing the nearest street address is also a big help. City staff will respond with updates on the repair.



To find a handy online map of Rockville's streetlights throughout the city, go to [www.rockvillemd.gov](http://www.rockvillemd.gov). At the top of the page, hover your mouse over "City Government." On the dropdown box, hover over "Departments," then "Information Technology," and select "Rockville Maps and GIS." Scroll down the page to select "Map Gallery." Type "streetlights" in the search box at the top of the page. The orange dots denote working streetlights; the red ones show streetlight outages.



Get Into It

**Mayor**  
BRIDGET DONNELL NEWTON

**Councilmembers**  
BERYL L. FEINBERG  
VIRGINIA D. ONLEY  
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR  
MARK PIERZCHALA

**Acting City Manager:** Craig L. Simoneau  
**Deputy City Manager:** Jennifer Kimball  
**Director of Communication:** Marylou Berg  
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**BACK IN THE DAY:** Rockville city employees and residents reached out to victims of Hurricane Katrina, an article in the December 2005 edition of "Rockville Reports" tells us. The month before, Cpl. Heath Marshall and his K-9, Kane, spent several days volunteering in New Orleans' 9th Ward searching for flood victims. Patrons to the Rockville Civic Center, the Rockville Art League and visitors to the Antique and Classic Car Show were among those who donated thousands of dollars for Katrina's victims.